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Quick Write #2

The concept of open access (OA) has been a constant debate in academic and LIS communities. OA refers to free and public access to academic information such as journals and peer reviewed work without the barrier of a pay wall. The OA movement has been successful in bringing awareness to the issue. Organizations such as the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Research Coalition or SPARC, have advocated for open access through policymakers and lobbyists. There are some advantages and challenges to OA. Some of the advantages include access being readily available to research for everyone and that new ideas can be dispersed more widely. Open Access can also generate additional research and therefore create a bigger impact. Conversely, the challenges associated with OA include article processing charges (APC's) and the issue of predatory journals. APCs are fees that authors have to pay to publish and make their articles open access.

The issue of Open Access is not black and white and is more complicated than it may appear. Regardless of where one stands on the matter, there is a bigger picture and thoughtful consideration is required. As Esposito explains in his article *Libraries Face a Future of Open Access*, "Publishing is an ecosystem, however, and a significant change in one element can ripple across an entire field" (Esposito, 2018). In theory, I believe the idea of having access to information for free should be indisputable. Reflecting on the advantages of open access like allowing new ideas to be shared extensively and thus granting further research to be conducted is difficult to argue. Open access has the potential of producing more scholarly research, hence benefiting all disciplines. But when we consider Esposito's analogy of publishing as an ecosystem, we have to think about the effects of the changes made to the current process. The results may not always be positive.

In terms of the challenges associated with open access, there are issues with exploitation through APC's and predatory journals. There was a tweet I came across online that read something along the lines of "imagine working all your life to get published only to see your name as et al." I found that both hilarious and sad, but I think this can also be said as "imagine working all your life to get published only to pay \$9,000 to do it and get published in a phony journal." This is the harsh reality. Open access has the potential of making both PAC's and predatory journals more prevalent. The biggest challenge in my opinion is figuring out how to make the ecosystem of publishing work in a way that benefits both stakeholders without having negative effects on libraries.

Assuming that SPARC and other organization succeed in making all publishers to move towards open access, how might this impact libraries' budgets? Libraries are already in a constant tug of war regarding their budget allocations. Esposito states that "the assumption is that libraries will have more money to spend on other things, but it seems likely that provosts will take that money away from the libraries" (Esposito, 2018). My feeling is that libraries are undervalued, and it shows in the way that budgets are dispersed. If we begin to make changes to the way the system is set up, libraries may suffer the brunt of the consequences. I am in no way saying that this is how publishing should continue to work or that it is perfect the way it is. I am simply agreeing with Esposito's assessment and believe that we should ponder on the bigger picture.